Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Please amend claims 1-3 as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A <u>method for a</u> medical support system comprising <u>the steps of</u>:

<u>providing</u> patient terminals configured to be used individually by a plurality of patients;

<u>providing</u> medical institution terminals configured to be used individually by a plurality of medical institutions; and

<u>providing</u> a management server each patient terminal being connected with the medical institution terminals and the management server via a network, the medical institution terminals being connected with the management server via a network,

wherein <u>said step of providing</u> said management server comprises <u>storing in</u> a medical information storage device <s>for storing</s> medical information of each patient and <s>a medical information control device for</s> controlling an input and output of said medical information of each patient into and from <s>said</s> <u>a</u> medical information storage device, the medical information including medical records, examination results, and medical images, <u>and</u>

wherein <u>said step of controlling the input and output of said medical information via</u> said medical information control device <s>is configured to,</s> <u>includes the steps of</u>

upon receiving a request from a patient terminal of a first patient among the plurality of patients to upload in said management server medical information of said first patient managed by a medical institution among said plurality of medical institutions, <s>transmit</s> <u>transmitting</u> upload permission key data for uploading said medical information of said first patient in said management server and a content of said medical information of said first patient to be uploaded by the request to said medical institution terminal of said requested medical institution;

upon receiving said upload permission key data transmitted from said medical institution terminal, <s>authenticate</s> <u>authenticating</u> validity of said upload permission key data, <s>transmit</s> <u>transmitting</u> to said medical institution terminal a permission response for transmitting said medical information of said first patient to said management server, and <s>defer</s> <u>deferring</u> upload of said medical information of said first patient; and

upon receiving said medical information of said first patient transmitted from said medical institution terminal, ~~store~~ storing said medical information of said first patient in said medical information storage device.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method for a medical support system comprising the steps of:

providing patient terminals configured to be used individually by a plurality of patients;

providing medical institution terminals configured to be used individually by a plurality of medical institutions; and

providing a management server, each patient terminal being connected with the medical institution terminals and management server via a network, the medical institution terminals being connected with the management server via a network,

wherein said step of providing said management server comprises storing in a medical information storage device ~~for storing~~ medical information of each patient and ~~a medical information control device for~~ controlling an input and output of said medical information of each patient into and from ~~said~~ a medical information storage device, the medical information including medical records, examination results, and medical images, and

wherein said step of controlling the input and output of said medical information includes ~~said medical information control device is configured to,~~

upon receiving a medical information download request for downloading and viewing medical information of a first patient among the plurality of patients from a medical institution terminal of a medical institution among the plurality of medical institutions, ~~transmit~~ transmitting a content of said medical information download request to a patient terminal of said first patient;

upon receiving a permission response for downloading said medical information of said first patient from said patient terminal, ~~transmit~~ transmitting download permission key data which permits said medical institution of said first patient to download and view said medical information of said first patient to said medical institution terminal; and

upon receiving said download permission key data transmitted from said medical institution terminal, ~~authenticate~~ authenticating validity of said download permission key data and ~~transmit~~ transmitting said medical information of said first patient to said medical institution terminal.

3.   (Currently Amended) A <u>method for a</u> medical support system comprising <u>the steps of</u>:

provi<u>ding</u> patient terminals configured to be used individually by a plurality of patients;

<u>providing</u> medical institution terminals configured to be used individually by a plurality of medical institutions; and

<u>providing</u> a management server, each patient terminal being connected with medical institution terminals and management server via a network, the medical institution terminals being the management server via a network,

wherein <u>said step of providing</u> said management server comprises <u>storing in</u> a medical information storage device ~~for storing~~ medical information of each patient, and ~~a medical information control device for~~ controlling an input and output of said medical information of each patient into and from ~~said~~ <u>a</u> medical information storage device, the medical information including medical records, examination results, and medical images,

wherein <u>said step of controlling the input and output of said medical information via</u> said medical information control device ~~is configured to~~ <u>includes</u>

upon receiving a medical information reference request from a first medical institution terminal of a first medical institution among the plurality of medical institution to allow a second medical institution among the plurality of medical institution to download and view said medical information of a first patient among the plurality of patients, ~~transmit~~ <u>transmitting</u> a content of said medical information reference request to a patient terminal of said first patient;

upon receiving a permission response from said patient terminal of said first patient to permit said second medical institution to download and view said medical information of said first patient, ~~transmit~~ <u>transmitting</u> download permission key data to permit said second medical institution to download and view said medical information of said first patient to said second medical institution terminal; and

upon receiving said download permission key data transmitted from said second medical institution terminal, ~~authenticate~~ <u>authenticating</u> validity of said download permission key data and transmitting said medical information to a second medical institution terminal of said second medical institution.

4.   (Previously Presented) A medical support method in a management server, said data management institution connected via a network to a patient terminal of a patient, a first medical institution terminal of a first medical institution, and a second medical institution terminal of a second medical institution respectively, wherein said management server comprises a medical information storage device for storing medical information of the patient and a medical information control device for controlling an input and output of said medical information into and from said medical information storage device, the medical information including medical records, examination results, and medical images, the method comprising the steps of

(1)   a reference request step for, upon receiving a medical information reference request from said first medical institution terminal to allow said second medical institution, to which said patient is introduced, to download and view said medical information of said patient, with said medical information control device, transmitting a content of said medical information reference request to said patient terminal of said patient;

(2)   a reference permission step for, upon receiving a permission response from said patient terminal to permit said second medical institution to download and view said medical information, with said medical information control device, transmitting download permission key data to permit said second medical institution to download and view said medical information to said second medical institution terminal; and

(3)   a reference execution step for, upon receiving said download permission key data transmitted from said second medical institution terminal, with said medical information control device, authenticating validity of said download permission key data and transmitting said medical information to said second medical institution terminal.